

Tuesday, November 30, 1999

## Discovery's wiring inspections continue while preparing for Dec. 9 launch



## NASA TV coverage offers daily updates on Mars Polar Lander, beginning today



▲ **Shuttle Update:** Discovery's payload bay doors were closed Nov. 24. Workers have resumed orbiter electrical wiring inspections in Discovery's aft compartment. Close-out efforts are expected to conclude late Sunday. Shuttle managers will reconvene a follow-up Flight

Readiness Review Wednesday afternoon to obtain a final status on prelaunch preparations.

▲ **Mars Polar Lander:** NASA TV coverage of the Mars Polar Landing starts with a series of prelanding news briefings that begin on Tuesday, Nov. 30, at 1 p.m. EST. The Lander is due to set down under rocket power on Friday, Dec. 3, with the first signal received on Earth that confirms the landing, expected at 3:37 p.m. EST. The two Deep Space 2 microprobes that are piggybacking on the Lander will impact the planet's surface at about this same time. Daily coverage, including periods of live commentary, will be provided through Friday, Dec. 10, if early mission events proceed as planned.

◆ **A Y2K Broadcast Will Be Aired On KSC TV Channel 60** -- The Y2K problem will affect virtually everyone as a direct or indirect user of computer systems. As part of Center management's direction for readiness, a U.S. Department of Commerce video will be aired on KSC TV Channel 60 each Monday, Tuesday, and Friday beginning Nov. 29 and ending Dec. 21, 1999. All employees are urged to watch this broadcast and gain insight on the issues and readiness for potential problems. For additional information, contact Art Beller via e-mail at *Beller, Arthur E. @ ksc.nasa.gov*

### Thanks to the Open House Volunteers

Without the hard work and dedication of the 700-plus employee volunteers, the joint KSC/CCAS Employee Open House would not have been so successful this year. More than 32,000 people attended the Open House in October.

"With the inclusion of Cape Canaveral Air Station, our partner in Space, this year's Open House had more launch sites to view, and more exhibits and entertainment than ever before," said KSC Director Roy Bridges.

"We hope the families of our employees here at KSC and at Cape Canaveral Air Station now enjoy a better understanding of how exciting it is to work here," he added.

◆ **Science Fair Judges Needed** -- Anderson Elementary in Rockledge will be having a science fair Dec. 7, and they are in need of judges. Volunteers should contact Vicki Cooley at Anderson, 633-3610.

◆ **Did You Know? The KSC Visitor Complex Offers Holiday Discount** -- The KSC Visitor Complex Space Shop is again offering its annual holiday discount of 30% through Dec. 24 to all badged NASA and contractor personnel. Best time for shopping is before 4 p.m. For questions, call the Space Shop at 449-4417.

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday.

Deadlines: 10 a.m. the day before. Send information, comments or questions to:

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Countdown on the Internet -- <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/ksccount/1999/1999.htm>